



Astrid Karin Nilssen

August 9, 1944 - September 9, 2026

Eugene, Oregon

Astrid Karin Nilssen died in Eugene on September 9, 2026. She was 82. Born in Eugene on August 9, 1944, into a Norwegian-American household that treated work as a language. She learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

She fed students who forgot to eat and faculty who forgot manners. A bent soup ladle was her scepter; leftovers went home with anyone who asked kindly. Colleagues still mention a soup ladle bent from decades.

She married Olav in 1969. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised two daughters through public schools and ordinary weather. After Olav died in 2019, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember a rake leaned against a shared fence after a storm. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Eugene, among streets she never needed to explain. The radio is still tuned to the station that played while work got done.

Services

A memorial gathering in Eugene with coffee afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a local workers' fund, clinic, or neighborhood library is welcome.

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